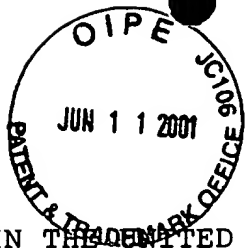


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
HIROAKI SUGIURA) : Examiner: N/Y/A
Application No.: 09/342,917) : Group Art Unit: 2781
Filed: June 30, 1999) :
For: DATA CONVERSION) :
APPARATUS AND METHOD) June 8, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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JUN 14 2001
Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to U.S. Patent No. 5,748,195, which is listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and of which a copy is enclosed.

This document was cited during prosecution of an Australian patent application corresponding to the subject U.S. application. A copy of the Australian Search Report, which is dated April 9, 2001, is enclosed.

In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that U.S. Patent No. 5,748,195 was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a

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counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. In view of the foregoing, and the fact that a first Office Action has not yet been received in the subject application, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be timely.

Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing and returning the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant

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